



Environmental Protection Agency Geospatial Data Clearinghouse

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) node of the National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse is a component of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The EPA Clearinghouse is implemented through the Office of Information Resources Management (OIRM) National Geographic Information Services (NGIS) Program, with support from the Enterprise Technology Services Division (ETSD). The node provides a pathway to find information about geospatial data used at EPA. Geospatial data is used in geographic information systems (GIS) to identify the geographic location and characteristics of natural and man-made features and boundaries on earth.

The National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse objectives are to allow its users to determine what geospatial data exist, find the data they need, evaluate the usefulness of the data for their applications, and obtain or order the data. The EPA Clearinghouse provides a storage mechanism, and allows public access to the documentation (metadata) for Agency geospatial data. In the future, the EPA Clearinghouse will allow access to the geospatial data via the Internet.

NGIS collected metadata from the Regions and Headquarter GIS activities, and screened and enhanced the metadata as necessary to ensure compliance with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata. As the compliance verification process is completed, the metadata are indexed, uploaded, and disseminated through EPA's Clearinghouse node housed at ETSD in Research Triangle Park, NC.

Additional metadata are added to the EPA Clearinghouse on a monthly basis, as necessary. Most metadata in the EPA Clearinghouse are indexed to facilitate search, discovery, and retrieval. The EPA Clearinghouse also maintains non-indexed EPA spatial data sources, other geospatial data sources, and links to federal, state, university, foreign, commercial, and miscellaneous NSDI links.

The EPA Clearinghouse is accessible to EPA and public users, and houses metadata for over 50 geospatial data sets. To access the EPA's Clearinghouse node, use a World Wide Web (WWW) compatible client and open the following URL:

<http://www.epa.gov/nsdi>. Most metadata in the EPA Clearinghouse are indexed to facilitate search, discovery, and retrieval. If indexed, a user may find metadata in four ways:

Metadata Title Browse - Browse a listing of the metadata titles of spatial holdings.

Theme-based Browse - Browse a theme-based listing of geospatial data holdings.

Spatial Extent Browse - Browse a listing of metadata titles grouped by the spatial or map extent of the data.

Keyword or Spatial Extent Search - Search the geospatial data holdings based on user-selected keyword, state-bounding rectangle, or coordinate-defined rectangle.

Contact: Ed Partington
National GIS Program
U.S. EPA, Office of Information and Resources Management
401 M Street, SW (3405R)
Washington, DC 20460
(202)260-3106
Internet: partington.ed@epamail.epa.gov
URL: <http://www.epa.gov>